

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3536
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2003
BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government are aware that the total number of dead and injured gas victims of Bhopal gas tragedy are at least five times more than the number used as the basis of Bhopal Settlement of 14/15 February, 1989;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that during payment of compensation at a delayed period, the benefit of devaluation of rupee and interests accrued on the compensation not been taken into account; and
- (d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to compensate all the gas victims adequately on this count?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (Dr. CHHATTRA PAL SINGH)

(a) & (b): The order of Supreme Court dated 14/15 February 1989 do not mention the number of persons injured due to leakage of gas from the UCIL factory, Bhopal. Initially about 6 lakh compensation claims were registered during the period 1985 to 1989. However, to give an opportunity to those persons who may not have filed their claims during this period, a fresh notification was issued in December 1996, inviting applications for claims and about 4 lakh additional compensation claims were received in the office of the Welfare Commissioner. In all, 10,29,515 claims were filed. The position of settlement of claim cases as on 31.5.2003 is given at Annexure I. The number of death claims has increased due to delayed action of MIC gas on the victims. All claims have been settled through a judicial process.

(c) & (d): The Bhopal gas victims are paid compensation under the provisions of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985 and Scheme, 1985. The Scheme does not envisage payment of interest on the amount awarded as compensation and payment of benefit of devaluation of rupee. The Government of India is of the view that the balance compensation money (if any) should be disbursed on pro-rata basis among those Bhopal gas victims whose cases have been decided by the office of the Welfare Commissioner that too after all the claims are finally settled and the exact quantum of balance amount is known.

Annexure-I

The position of settlement of claim cases as on 31.5.2003

Category Cases

	Registered	Decided	No. of Awarded cases	No. of pending cases
01 (Injury)	10,01,723	10,01,723	5,53,740	Nil
02 (Loss of Livestock)	658	648	232	10
03 (Loss of Property)	4,901	4,824	543	77
04 (Death)	22,149	22,105	15,190	44
05 (cases from PSU)	84	78	04	06
Total	10,29,515	10,29,378	5,69,709	137